

## Joint Statement on Enhancing the Partnership between Japan and Jamaica(J-J Partnership)

1. H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan paid an official visit to Jamaica during the period 30<sup>th</sup> September -1<sup>st</sup> October 2015, at the invitation of The Most Honourable Portia Simpson Miller, Prime Minister of Jamaica. Prime Minister Simpson Miller warmly welcomed the first visit to Jamaica by the Prime Minister of Japan.
2. The two Prime Ministers celebrated their third summit meeting starting with the visit of Prime Minister Simpson Miller to Japan in November 2013 and stressed the significance of high-level bilateral and Japan-CARICOM policy dialogues. They also reaffirmed their continued efforts to strengthen ties through enhanced communication.
3. The two Prime Ministers appreciated the fact that the success of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Jamaica, as well as Japan-CARICOM Friendship Year 2014, reflects the intimate and friendly cooperative relations existing between the two countries for over half a century. They also reaffirmed their similarity as maritime nations, which face common challenges, uphold shared basic values such as freedom, democracy, respect for basic human rights, and the rule of law, and committed to their countries' continued contribution to the betterment of the international community. They welcomed the increased level of exchanges between the two countries and Japan-CARICOM in recent years, and expressed their intention to maintain the momentum attained during the Friendship Year.
4. Recalling "Japan's CARICOM Policy" expressed by Prime Minister Abe at the First Japan-CARICOM Summit Meeting in July 2014, the two Prime Ministers welcomed and supported the "Ministerial Joint Statement between Japan and CARICOM", adopted at the Fourth Japan-CARICOM Ministerial-Level Conference in November 2014, which followed up the discussions at the First Japan-CARICOM Summit Meeting. Furthermore, reflecting the deepening of their bilateral relationship in various areas, the two Prime Ministers affirmed their intention to strengthen the Partnership between Japan and Jamaica (J-J Partnership).

**< First Pillar: Cooperation towards sustainable development including overcoming vulnerabilities particular to Small Island Developing States >**

5. Recalling Japan's policy of extending cooperation towards sustainable development, including overcoming vulnerabilities particular to Small Island Developing States as in the First Japan-CARICOM Summit Meeting, and Japan's "Development Cooperation Charter", which states that Japan will extend necessary cooperation to small island countries and others that are faced with special vulnerabilities despite having attained a certain level of per capita income, Prime Minister Abe stressed that Japan has been steadily implementing new cooperation projects for CARICOM Member States including Jamaica, in the field of disaster risk reduction among others. Prime Minister Abe also announced that Japan decided to extend a new technical cooperation project to Jamaica and three other CARICOM Member States in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy, which is one of the highest priority areas of cooperation requested by CARICOM Member States.
  
6. Prime Minister Simpson Miller expressed her appreciation for the cooperation extended by Japan in these critical areas and lauded the Government of Japan's exemplary approach and commitment in support of the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States. The Prime Minister also used the opportunity to express her appreciation for Japan's valued assistance in many areas of national development including: trade, tourism, investment, technical cooperation, cultural and educational exchanges, and active cooperation at the regional and international levels. The Prime Minister further highlighted the benefits derived from the continued support offered by the Government of Japan, particularly in providing scholarships, loans, and grant funding for technical and economic cooperation programmes, all of which have served to strengthen human resources and capacity-building in Jamaica.
  
7. The two Prime Ministers noted that the two countries would celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing and exchanging of the Notes concerning the dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) in 2017, and expressed their high expectation that the Japanese volunteers would continue to play an important role in the sustainable development of Jamaica and the strengthening of the cordial relationship between the two countries.

8. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed the importance of assistance through the Japan-CARICOM Friendship and Cooperation Fund (JCFCF), which is Japan's public and private initiative since 2000. They also welcomed the contribution to the project to erect a Permanent Memorial to Honour the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade through the JCFCF, and decided to continue cooperation by further enhancing the effectiveness of the Fund, mindful of its flexible operation and possible synergy with other assistance programmes.
9. The two Prime Ministers recognized the importance of a mutually beneficial economic relationship and welcomed investment and interest by Japanese enterprises. They also recognized the importance of improving the business environment in both countries based on a long-term perspective and adapting to changes in the international environment, in order to enhance trade and investment.

**<Second Pillar: Deepening and expanding bonds founded on exchanges and friendship>**

10. Appreciating the efforts made by the public and private sectors during the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Jamaica and the Friendship Year 2014, in order to promote mutual cultural understanding and to realize exchanges at various levels, the two Prime Ministers affirmed their intention to maintain this momentum and to enhance mutual understanding and strengthen the bonds of friendship.
11. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the signing of the Exchange of Notes concerning the "Project for the Improvement of the Exhibition and Audiovisual Equipment of the Institute of Jamaica" as part of their efforts in cultural cooperation. They shared the expectation that this Project would contribute to the further promotion of culture in Jamaica.
12. Recognizing the successful achievement of people-to-people exchange programmes such as the "Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme" and the "Invitation Program for Young Officials of the Caribbean Community", the two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their intention to continue people-to-people exchanges including through these programmes. Especially, they welcomed the fact that forty (40) Jamaican young people had visited Japan as new participants in the JET Programme in 2015,

which is the largest number since the inception of the programme. They also welcomed the proposed launch of the exchange programmes between Sophia University in Japan and the University of the West Indies using the JCFCF and looked forward to their progress.

13. The two Prime Ministers welcomed again the hosting of the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo and expressed their best wishes to the athletes of Japan and Jamaica at the Games. They also welcomed Japan's efforts through its "Sport for Tomorrow" programme, an initiative for international contribution through sport towards the 2020 Olympic Games. Prime Minister Abe also welcomed the friendly football match between Samurai Blue and Reggae Boys in Niigata in October 2014 and the training camp staged in Tottori in August 2015 ahead of the IAAF (International Association of Athletic Federations) World Championships in Beijing, and expressed his expectation for the continuation of such sport exchanges at the international or local level in the future.

14. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the inscription of "Blue and John Crow Mountains" on the World Heritage List as the first Jamaican site to be inscribed on the World Heritage List, along with the inscription of "Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal mining". They called for the promotion of cooperation in the tourism sector in order to increase tourists visiting each other's country in the future.

### **<Third Pillar: Cooperation in addressing challenges of the international community>**

15. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the adoption by consensus of UN General Assembly resolution A/69/L92 on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters, in which the General Assembly reaffirmed its central role concerning the issue and decided to continue Intergovernmental Negotiations at its 70th session, building on the work of the 69th session.

16. Noting that Japan and Jamaica face common challenges pertaining to natural disasters, the two Prime Ministers reaffirmed the importance of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in development planning and international cooperation initiatives. Prime Minister Abe expressed his appreciation for the contribution to

consensus-building on the outcome documents by the Jamaican Delegation during the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai-City, Japan, in March 2015. Prime Minister Simpson-Miller supported the proposal by Prime Minister Abe to designate 5<sup>th</sup> November as “World Tsunami Day”, with the aim of the deepening the understanding of tsunamis, and raising awareness of the importance of taking precautionary measures against tsunamis.

17. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the recent adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which encompasses the idea of human security, global partnership, and efforts in fields such as health, education, and disaster risk reduction. They affirmed their continued close coordination in the implementation phase of the agenda.

18. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed that the two countries will cooperate closely in the field of climate change, including cooperation toward building a post-2020 framework applicable to all Parties under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the implementation of the S.A.M.O.A pathway adopted at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in 2014 toward sustainable development in SIDS.

19. As leaders of maritime nations, the two Prime Ministers reaffirmed that the seas and oceans should be open, free and secure, in accordance with international law including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). They further reaffirmed that maritime order must be maintained and that common principles such as the freedom and safety of navigation and overflight, restraint from the threat or use of force, and the peaceful settlement of disputes must be adhered to in accordance with international law.

Prime Minister Abe appreciated the contributions which have been provided by Jamaica to date to the International Seabed Authority as its host country. The two Prime Ministers affirmed the importance of the role which the International Seabed Authority plays in strengthening the rule of law at sea, and shared the view that both countries will continue to offer possible assistance to the International Seabed Authority.

20. The two Prime Ministers affirmed the importance of the sustainable use of living

marine resources based on the best scientific evidence available and proper management and, as countries surrounded by seas and oceans and enjoying their resources, they will cooperate to gain wider support in this area.

21. The two Prime Ministers, on the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> year since the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, renewed their determination to realize a world free of nuclear weapons, and in this regard, reaffirmed to cooperate in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, centering upon the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).
  
22. Stating that Japan has made considerable contribution to peace, stability and prosperity of the international community as a peace-loving country for 70 years since the end of WWII, Prime Minister Abe informed Prime Minister Simpson Miller of Japan's policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation, including its "Legislation for Peace and Security." Prime Minister Simpson Miller welcomed such efforts by Japan toward achieving international peace and security.
  
23. The two Prime Ministers expressed their grave concern over North Korea's continued development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, including its uranium enrichment activities. They strongly urged North Korea to take concrete steps towards denuclearization in the Korean Peninsula, to refrain from any provocation, and to fully comply with its obligations under all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and its commitments under the 2005 Six-Party Talks Joint Statement. They called on the international community to ensure full implementation of UN sanctions against North Korea. The two Prime Ministers strongly urged North Korea to address, without delay, the humanitarian concerns of the international community, including the abductions issue. Prime Minister Simpson Miller expressed Jamaica's continued support to the resolution on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea jointly submitted by Japan and EU.
  
24. The two Prime Ministers reiterated the importance of the role of women in the society and the economy and acknowledged to work together on creating a "society in which all women shine", including through the World Assembly for Women (WAW!).

25. The two Prime Ministers reiterated their commitment to continue working towards the achievement of the afore-mentioned objectives and to further strengthen their coordination bilaterally or through Japan/CARICOM cooperation, as global partners on issues of mutual concern within the international community.

26. Prime Minister Abe thanked Prime Minister Simpson Miller for the heartfelt hospitality and enthusiastic courtesies extended to him and the Japanese delegation during the visit.

Signed on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 in Kingston, Jamaica

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His Excellency Mr. Shinzo Abe  
Prime Minister of Japan

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The Most Honourable Portia Simpson Miller  
Prime Minister of Jamaica